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“Gender is a reality and a more fundamental reality than sex... a fundamental polarity which divides all created beings.”

C.S. Lewis

CONTENTS

DEDICATION

PREFACE

FOREWORD

Chapter 1

Does God Favour A Gender? A Feminist's Son Asked.

Chapter 2

Book Recommendations Especially for Singles.

References

DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my Daddy, Mentor and First Discippler (the late Elder Bertram O. Ugbaja a.k.a B.H.O) of blessed memory, my Grandmother, a woman of great wisdom and strength (the late Phobe Ezenne a.k.a Young) of blessed memory, my Mummy, a woman of great wisdom, strength, and love (Mrs. Ezinne Bessie Ugbaja), and to my Ugochukwunyeremu.

I also dedicate this work to all brothers and sisters in the Lord that desire to honour God in their relationships and to all those who have struggled with this question of gender equality or inequality.

PREFACE

The issue of gender equality and inequality has been a major struggle, especially in our contemporary time. There have been several attempts to solve this problem, but to no avail, especially in a broken and disorderly world. The best answer and solution to this issue is going back to the Creator of gender, so that we can gain insight on what gender was meant to be. God is the creator of gender and He is the God of humankind. He has a purpose in creating gender. Gender was made to complement, not to divide and subdue one another. God is not an author of confusion. He is the God of order. There is no disorderliness in Him, despite the confusion and disorderliness in the world. God's standards for orderliness still stand. God's word has not changed in our contemporary time. I know times and seasons have changed, but God's Word still stands. This book explores God's Word to see God's viewpoint about gender and their roles in a broken and disorderly world.

Join me as we journey through God's Word to see God's standard of orderliness as far as gender is concerned, so that we can gain divine insight and apply our lives to wisdom according to God's heart about what gender is meant to be. As you read this book, be humble and honest with yourself and respond to the Holy Spirit's nudging.

Solomon Chukwuemeka Ugbaja

Istanbul (February-2018)

FOREWORD

God is a God of orderliness! He created man and woman equal! The man is not superior neither is the woman inferior! In marriage, however, for the purpose of orderliness and good governance, the Bible prescribed how the home should be governed.

As singles and married, you must see yourself the way God sees you. The purpose of anything manufactured is in the design, in the same way, your purpose in life is a function of who you are by design! God is the designer, So, looking at His Creation Manual gives us understanding of who we are!

In this book, Solomon dissected this sensitive issue that is causing a lot of conflicts in our world today and in our homes!

Enjoy God as you read this great piece!

God bless you!

Paul Ojomu,

President, Youth & Singles International.

www.youthandsingles.com

CHAPTER ONE



DOES GOD FAVOUR A GENDER?

A FEMINIST'S SON ASKED.

God is the creator of gender (**Genesis 1:27, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them”**). God had a perfect intention for creating men and women. Our uniqueness, distinctions, roles, and functions complement one another, to the glory of God and no one else. God created both man and woman equal, but with different roles. C.S. Lewis in his book *Perelandra* (Space Trilogy, Book 2) rightly said, **“Gender is a reality and a more fundamental reality than sex... a fundamental polarity which divides all created beings.”**¹ Our roles don’t make one gender superior to the other, but are simply meant to glorify God and complement one another. Just as Ravi Zacharias said, **“What an incredibly gracious God to remind us that none of us is superior to the other. We only have the same privilege of taking our distinctives and complementary**

strengths and carrying the message to the world...God is the God of humankind...That is our Lord, who treats all of us with intrinsic worth and reflective splendor. I thank God for the beauty He has created in this complementariness.”² We are all made in God’s image. God is One in Being but Three in Persons. God in the Trinity (God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) is One God, but the different Persons have different roles, and no one Person is better than another because They are One. Jesus Christ (The Son) came to earth and submitted to the Father to display the love of the Godhead (The Trinity) to the world by dying on the cross, and this did not in any way make Him inferior to the Godhead. Philippians 2:5-8 says,

“Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Although He was in the form of God and equal with God, He did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, He emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross.” (GW)

Therefore, when God said man is the head of the woman, He meant well for both the man and the woman (**1 Corinthians 11:3, “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God”** and in **Ephesians 5:23, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”**). Apart from

Merriam-Webster's dictionary definition of husband as a married man and a frugal manager, it also defined the verb "to husband" as "to carefully use or manage (something or someone, such as a resource)."³ So, to husband means to be a frugal manager and steward. This was what God asked Adam and men to do, to be the physical and spiritual managers/stewards of His daughters. Also, apart from wife meaning a married woman, the same dictionary defines a wife with a synonym as a helpmeet. Just as Genesis 2:18 says,

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helpmeet for him."

Therefore, when a woman accepts a man as her husband, she is accepting him as her manager. And when a man takes a woman as his wife, he is accepting her as his companion and helper (helpmeet). In this, they pursue God's kingdom business of reflecting His love to the perishing world through marriage, which represents the relationship between Christ and the church.

God is not an author of confusion, but He is the Creator of order and also the God of order. Just like in every corporate organization, there is always an Organogram that helps people to know their positions, roles, and functions. This is meant to help the organization to function effectively and efficiently. So, when God said that man is the head of the woman and Christ is the head of the man, He wanted things ordered for His own glory, not for any man or woman's glory. We are all equal before God according

to grace, but when it comes to God's economy (government/administration) in the church and home; the man is the head of the woman. We shouldn't let the idea of equality to negate the distinct gender roles that God has given us.

I am not saying this because it is fun to say so as a man, but I am saying it with a great sense of responsibility and accountability to God. Yes, this is a great responsibility entrusted to men and we are accountable to God. For example, when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, the Bible says in Genesis 3:8-11,

“And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”

God called Adam because he was the one responsible and accountable for the leadership in the garden. He was the head of that family and should be held responsible for any problem that arises in the family. God did not ask Eve first, but Adam. God asked Adam, “Where are you?” It was like God was asking Adam, “Where were you when things were going wrong in the garden I commanded you to tend and watch over? Where were you

when your wife was discussing with the enemy?” Adam was the head and had to be accountable for whatever went on in the family. This is why when there is a problem in the church or home, God holds the men accountable for that, because they are the head and should be responsible and accountable for whatever goes on in the church or home.

I remembered discussing with one of my sisters about this subject of submission. I was asking her stand on this command of God. Her answer kept me thinking about my role as a man. She said that she is ever ready and willing to submit to a man as her husband and head, but her question is whether the man is willing and ready to fulfil God’s command by washing her with God’s word that she might be presentable to God, knowing full well that God will hold the man accountable for the life of His daughter. She was actually quoting Ephesians 5:25 which says,

“Husbands, love your wives [seek the highest good for her and surround her with a caring, unselfish love], just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify the church, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word [of God], so that [in turn] He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy [set apart for God] and blameless.”
(AMP)

That kept me thinking about this scripture in relation to my leadership responsibility as a man: this leadership responsibility committed to men

is leadership by service. This leadership means leading by serving others, which is Servant Leadership. When God said in Ephesians 5:22 and 25,

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord...Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”

He knows what He is saying and He meant good for everyone. If God intended it to be so, then it is good to Him and good for everyone. The truth is that submission to authority as a child of God is not because of weakness or inferiority. Jesus Christ did not submit Himself to God the Father because He was inferior to Him. He was equal with God the Father. Jesus' submission was to establish God's orderliness and love. This is God's desire for men and women, especially husbands and wives.

The truth is that God sees the end from the beginning. He knows better than we do. Just because God made the man the head of the woman doesn't mean He favours the male gender. He had a reason for making the man the head of the woman, and it was good to Him and is meant to be good for us. The fact that the man is the head of the woman does not make the woman inferior. No! It was never meant to be so, not in the beginning and not today! Any man who sees women as inferior or who is struggling with chauvinism and dominating women is not seeing well. In fact, such a man has lost his sense of responsibility and is no longer submitting to the authority of Christ as his head. God gave clear instructions on how

husbands should be the head of their wives and how wives are to submit to their own husband.

God did not call us to be radical masculinists and feminists; rather, He called us to true and godly masculinity and femininity. Jesus Christ has set the perfect example for both men and women, especially for husbands and wives. He left heaven as God and came in the form of a man in submission to the Father and He loved us so much that He died for our sake to save us even when we were still sinners. He came to serve and not to be served. He did what He is asking both men and women, especially husbands and wives to do to another. The husband is to love and treat his wife with honour and respect. The wife is to submit, honour, and respect the husband. Women were never made as inferior to men. We were all made to complement each other despite our distinctions and different roles. For those men that look down on women, remember that God uses the weak things of this world to shame the wise. It was a woman who gave birth to the saviour of the world (Jesus Christ) (**Isaiah 7:14,**

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Listen carefully, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will call his name Immanuel (God with us).”AMP

Matthew 1:23, “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”).

It was a woman who broke the alabaster jar filled with perfume to anoint the body of Jesus before His death (**Matthew 26:7-13,**

“ A woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor. But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”). NKJV

It was women that took care of Jesus and his disciples with their resources (**Luke 8:1-3,**

“After this, Jesus traveled from one city and village to another. He spread the Good News about God’s kingdom. The twelve apostles were with him. Also, some women were with him. They had been cured from evil spirits and various illnesses. These women were Mary, also called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out; Joanna, whose husband Chusa was Herod’s administrator; Susanna; and many other women. They provided financial support for Jesus and his disciples.” GW).

It was women to whom God gave the privilege of being the first to receive the resurrection message (Redemption Message). Even though men were

not left out because it was a man that was forced by the soldiers to carry Jesus' cross (**"As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus"** (Luke 23:26)) and it was also men that requested and took Jesus' body and buried Him in the tomb

("Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there." (John 19:38-42)).

Also, Jesus selected twelve male disciples who later became leaders of the early church, but women were given the privilege to take the resurrection message to the rest of the disciples (**Luke 24: 5-6, 10,**

"And as the women were terrified and were bowing their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why are you looking for the living One among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember hence to how He told you, while He was still in Galilee... Now they were Mary Magdalene

and Joanna [the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward] and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.”). (AMP)

Furthermore, the Church is referred to as the bride of Christ. The truth is that all these women understood their place and roles in their time and they played their roles so well and God honoured them so much that we read about their actions today. Being a radical feminist that pursues to end the patriarchal roots by challenging God's original standard, is not and will never be the solution. This idea of emphasizing the patriarchal roots of inequality between men and women is not the solution.⁴ Rather, be like Deborah and Queen Esther in the Bible. God used a woman named Esther to rescue the Jewish people in her time. Queen Esther was a woman who submitted to the instructions and guidance of Mordecai, who was her foster-father and King Ahasuerus' palace security guard. She did not become arrogant and snobbish to Mordecai when she became King Ahasuerus' queen, who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Ethiopia, but when it was time to speak up for her Jewish brethren she did so even to the detriment of her life, knowing full well that God had placed her in that position for this very purpose. Esther 4:10-16 says,

“Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: “All the king's officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty

days.” So Hathach gave Esther’s message to Mordecai. Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: “Don’t think for a moment that because you’re in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?” Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die.”

Deborah was another woman that God used as a Judge during a difficult time in Israel. When the Israelites did evil in the sight of God, God allowed the Canaanites to subdue them. But when they cried out to God, He used a woman named Deborah and a man named Barak to rescue them. Judges 4:4, 9-10,

“Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time... Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. And Barak summoned [the fighting men of the tribes of] Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh, and ten thousand men went up under his command; Deborah also went up with him.” (AMP)

God gave Deborah the opportunity to be a prophetess and she had the opportunity to serve as a judge in Israel, but the Bible still introduced her as the wife of Lapidoth. For God to have introduced Deborah as the wife of Lapidoth is not just her title, but it also means that she was under her husband’s head despite her gifts. Bear in mind that Deborah’s story was

recorded after it happened. This is to show that she had a head over her. Nothing much was said about her husband Lapidoth but Deborah had a head over her life as a husband. I believe that Deborah's success was possible because she enjoyed the support, love, advice, and encouragement of her husband. Some women would become arrogant if they had a greater opportunity than their husband. They forget that they are still a wife, who is under the watch of her husband. Deborah went to war with Barak, a man who was not her husband, not because she wanted to, but because Barak requested that she should go with him to the battle. At the end, they were both honoured and they praised God for the victory. Nobody took the credit for themselves, but instead they praised God. Judges 5:1-2,

“Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying, ‘For the leaders who took the lead in Israel, for the people who volunteered (for battle), Bless the LORD!’” (AMP)

Deborah did not use that opportunity to begin an advocacy campaign for radical feminism; rather, she arose and became a Mother in Israel. She did not become a Father in Israel, but a Mother in Israel. Of course, she can never be a Father in Israel no matter the opportunity because she was made to be a Mother in Israel not a Father. Her role was to be a Mother, not a Father. Despite the fact that she was a prophetess and a judge over Israel, she did not disrespect her husband because she was mightily used by God instead of her husband. She did not begin to order her husband

and even other men around, even when the men in Israel were afraid of rising up to the responsibility of facing their enemies.

I have seen so many women in our contemporary time who happened to have greater opportunities than men and they began to disrespect the men around them, even their husbands. They quickly forgot who God has made them to be. Some finally left their homes because they couldn't submit to their husbands due to pride. What an unfortunate ending. It's no wonder that the Bible says in Proverbs 14:1, **"A wise woman builds her home, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands."** I have seen some women who took the humility and simplicity of men as weakness. They quickly begin to disrespect those men instead of honouring them. May I remind you that meekness is not the same as weakness. A man's humility and simplicity are never a weakness, but strength under self-control. I remember a woman who said to a humble man as an insult, "When they say men should come out, you too will come out." She was simply saying that the man is not qualified to be a man because he is too humble to her liking. She had mistaken this man's meekness as weakness. What a pity! No matter how weak a man appears to be, he is still a man. Don't look down on such men. When you see such men respect them. Don't take their simplicity for stupidity. Don't take their gentility for granted. Remember that meekness is strength with self-control.

Mary Kassian wrote an article entitled, ‘When a Woman Makes a lot of Money and Her Husband Doesn’t’ in which she referred to an article by Judith Newman called, ‘What Do Alpha Women Really Want?’ In Newman’s article, she cited several examples of discontented alpha women, including Elizabeth D., a computer executive in Silicon Valley whose husband holds a lower-level job and Lisa R., a recently divorced publicist in Vail, Colorado. Elizabeth D. said, “Making more makes me resent him and feel he’s not pulling his weight and should figure out something else to pursue” while Lisa R. commented, “When my husband stopped having sex with me, he said that my haranguing him about his lack of income killed his desire.”

A couples’ therapist, Jane Greer, Ph.D., said that such marriages don’t work because, “When a man makes a lot of money and a woman doesn’t, there may be fighting over money—the actual dollars and cents of living and how she spends it. When a woman makes a lot of money and the man doesn’t, the fight isn’t exactly over money but over power: she expects to have more of it.” This means that the women expect their increased earning power to translate into a greater share of power in the relationship.⁵

Don’t use the socioeconomic status and net worth of a man or even a woman to determine whether he or she deserves respect. This is how the world decides who should be accorded respect; it should never be so in

God's kingdom. It's no wonder that Henry Ford said, "Money doesn't change men, it merely unmasks them. If a man is naturally selfish or arrogant or greedy, the money brings that out, that's all."⁶ Hmm! Let me put it this way, 'Positions, successes and money don't change you; they simply reveal you.'

In total contrast to the women mentioned above, godly reactions can be seen in the lives of the women in Jesus' time (i.e. Mary the mother of Jesus and other women that followed Jesus). God's word about submission has not changed in our contemporary time. The word of God remains forever, despite the times and seasons. I know times and seasons have changed, but God's command still stands. Remember that submission to authority as a child of God is not because of weakness or inferiority. Jesus Christ did not submit Himself to God the Father because He was inferior to the Father. He was equal with God the Father. Jesus' submission was to establish God's orderliness and love. There is no need for women to struggle to prove to men that they are not weak by being radical feminists.

Also, for men who feel threatened when their wives have better opportunities than themselves: the fact that your wife makes more money than you should not be a threat to you. Don't be threatened by her success so far as you are not lazy. If you are lazy, please go and find a job and work hard because God does not condone laziness and there is dignity in

labour. Don't be threatened by her success so far as you are not lazy. You are still the husband of the woman. You are still the head of your family. Don't be intimidated by her gifts, skills, money and successes; rather, see these as complements to what you yourself have and support, motivate and encourage her. A leader does not always have all the skills, but the beauty of mature leadership is the ability to encourage people to use their various skills and gifts effectively and efficiently in achieving the end goal. Husbands, don't be threatened by your wives' gifts, skills, money, and successes, but arise and be the leader you are created to be in your home like the husband of the virtuous woman who was known among the elders at the city gate (**Proverbs 31:23, "Her husband is known in the [city's] gates, When he sits among the elders of the land" AMP**).

We are called to true masculinity and femininity and not to be radical masculinists and feminists. Just understand your role and carry out your God-given gifts and roles to bless lives and God will honour you for that. Instead of being a radical feminist, learn from the Proverbs 31 woman, the virtuous woman. Proverbs 31: 10 -31 says,

"Who can find a wife with a strong character? She is worth far more than jewels. Her husband trusts her with all his heart, and he does not lack anything good. She helps him and never harms him all the days of her life. She seeks out wool and linen with care and works with willing hands. She is like merchant ships. She brings her food from far away. She wakes up while it is still dark and gives food to her family and portions of food to her female servants. She

picks out a field and buys it. She plants a vineyard from the profits she has earned. She puts on strength like a belt and goes to work with energy. She sees that she is making a good profit. Her lamp burns late at night...She opens her hands to oppressed people and stretches them out to needy people. She does not fear for her family when it snows because her whole family has a double layer of clothing...Her husband is known at the city gates when he sits with the leaders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them and delivers belts to the merchants. She dresses with strength and nobility, and she smiles at the future. She speaks with wisdom, and on her tongue there is tender instruction. She keeps a close eye on the conduct of her family, and she does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children and her husband stand up and bless her. In addition, he sings her praises, by saying, ‘Many women have done noble work, but you have surpassed them all!’ Charm is deceptive, and beauty evaporates, but a woman who has the fear of God should be praised. Reward her for what she has done, and let her achievements praise her at the city gates.” (GW)

Wow! This woman was not a radical feminist, even with all her industrious prowess, but her character speaks to generations! Women are to submit to their own husband not as inferiors, but as wives (helpers /helpmeets) obeying God by submitting to their husbands as an act of worship to God, just like Jesus Christ submitted to the Father by coming to the earth as a human being in order to die for us. This is why 1 Peter 3:1 says,

“In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate, not as inferior, but out of respect

for the responsibilities entrusted to husbands and their accountability to God, and so partnering with them] so that even if some do not obey the word [of God], they may be won over [to Christ] without discussion by the *godly* lives of their wives.” (AMP)

If God said submit to your husband, trust God and submit as in obedience to God. Play your role to the glory of God and leave the rest for God to handle. In a kingdom, there is a king and a queen. They both share royal status in a kingdom to achieve balanced leadership. Though both have different roles, they work towards the same goal. Women should learn to be the queen of their kingdom and allow the men to be the king. Don't struggle with the king. Complement the king as his queen. Proverbs 12:4 says,

“A wife with strength of character is the crown of her husband, but the wife who disgraces him is like bone cancer.” (GW)

Also, men should treat their wives as their queen. Help her, and appreciate her dignity as your queen. Remember 1 Corinthians 11:7 says,

“For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.”

Don't belittle her because others will join you in belittling her, and if they do that to her, one day they will belittle you because you're a king without

dignity and glory. Remember that she is your best reward on earth according to Ecclesiastes 9:9,

“Live happily with the woman you love through the fleeting days of life, for the wife God gives you is your best reward down here for all your earthly toil.” (TLB)

Gender was made to complement, not to divide and subdue one another. The issue is that we have men and women who are not under the leadership of Christ and they want to lead others. It cannot work. This is why there are crises and injustices of gender equality in marriages and in our society. And it's no wonder, since God commanded us to marry a genuine believer and not an unbeliever. This is because you cannot expect an unbeliever who lives a free ranger's life to submit to God's command. It is not possible. They cannot, and if you are forcing them to do so, you are mistaken. You cannot marry them and change them. Nobody can change anyone. It is God's work to change hearts, not yours. God, who said you should not marry them, knows why He said so. Women, this is very important. Be very careful to know the man you are going to say, 'YES, I DO' to. I don't mean church goers or people who serve in one area of gifting (Worship Leader - Music, Teacher - Bible Study, Evangelist - Evangelism, and Sunday School Teacher - Sunday School etc.) in the church. No! This is because all that glitters is not gold. Don't marry gifting and charisma. Marry a genuine child of God that loves and fears God. A man who sincerely loves and fears God will treat you with

respect and reverence before God. And this goes both ways, because the Bible says in Proverbs 31:30,

“Charm is deceptive, and beauty evaporates, but a woman who has fear of the LORD should be praised.”(GW)

If a man is not sincerely under the headship of Jesus Christ, he is not fit to be your husband. This issue of love and submission is meant for people under the headship of Jesus Christ. You cannot give what you don't have. If a man says he loves God but does not love his wife, then that love for God is questionable. If a woman says that she loves God but does not submit to her husband, that love for God is questionable. This is because if you cannot love the woman or submit to the man you see, how can you love and submit to the God whom you cannot see with your eyes? Remember, Jesus Christ said that **if you do this to the least of my brethren, you have done it to me**. Actually, the focus of true love is giving love, not getting love. The Message Bible in Ephesians 5:25 says, **“Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting”**. This is because love is not just a feeling; it's a decision to commit to meeting the other person's needs. True love meets the needs of the loved. This is why God said, **“Husbands, love your wives...”** and **“...wives submit to your husbands”**. This means that the husband should focus on meeting the needs of the wife and the wife should focus on meeting the needs of the husband as unto the Lord. True love focuses on meeting the needs of the

other person. If only we can humble ourselves and submit to God, this struggle won't be an issue in marriage. This is why God said in Ephesians 5:21, **“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God”**.

God is the God of order. Our roles in gender are to complement and not to oppress anyone. Any man who oppresses women or his wife in the name of being a real man is missing the point. Being a real man is not in displaying muscles to women or being a chauvinist. That is a sign of weakness and lack of maturity. Jesus Christ had set the perfect example for us to follow. Jesus came to serve and not to be served as it is written in Matthew 20:28,

“...When the ten others heard about this, they lost their tempers, thoroughly disgusted with the two brothers. So Jesus got them together to settle things down. He said, ‘You’ve observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads. It’s not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage.’ (MSG)

So, any man who wants to be a real man should follow Jesus' example of leadership by treating women with respect and loving his wife as Jesus loved the church, even to the point of dying for her. In fact, it is written in 1 Peter 3:7,

“In the same way, you husbands, live with *your wives* in an understanding way [with great gentleness and tact, and with an intelligent regard for the marriage relationship], as with someone physically weaker, since she is a woman. Show her honor *and* respect as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered *or* ineffective.” (AMP)

I like the way The Message rendition and The Phillips version paraphrased the above scripture. They say,

“The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God’s grace, you’re equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don’t run aground.” (MSG)

“Similarly, you husbands should try to understand the wives you live with, honouring them as physically weaker yet equally heirs with you of the grace of eternal life. If you don’t do this, you will find it impossible to pray properly.” (PHILLIPS).

Being the head is a great responsibility entrusted to husbands and they are accountable to God. For any man that treats his wife badly, remember your prayers will be hindered because you have misrepresented God and have rejected Christ’s headship/leadership over your life. It means you have refused to submit to Christ as your head while you are the head of the woman. God is not an unjust God. That is why He will not answer such a prayer.

Marriage is an illustration of the relationship between Christ and the Church. It is a beautiful portrait of the gospel which God commanded his children to paint for the world to see (**God has made us what we are [For we are His handiwork/workmanship/work of art/ creative work of art]...By his own wish he made us his own sons through the Word of truth that we might be, so to speak, the first specimens of his new creation.” Ephesians 2:10; James 1:18 Expanded Bible/PHILLIPS**). The men were commanded to represent Jesus Christ by loving their wives the way Jesus Christ loved the Church and the women by submitting the way the Jesus Christ submitted to God the Father. The devil hates to see this beautiful portrait of the gospel in any home. He has always waged war against such homes because they are a threat to him and his kingdom. This is what happened in the Garden of Eden. The devil couldn't behold that beauty of unity and love of God among Adam and Eve in the garden. He immediately attacked and Adam and Eve became his victims. But thank God for the gift of His Son Jesus Christ who has conquered the devil.

As Christians, we are supposed to exemplify God's message to the world. The world needs to come to us to learn what marriage is all about because in God there is no gender inequality. In fact, the only place that we can find true gender equality is at the feet of God, where we submit to His will and His sovereignty. The world needs to come to us to learn how to treat the opposite sex. The world has nothing to offer to us. According to

Mckinley Irvin Family Law of United States Divorce Statistics, **“There is one divorce approximately in every 36 seconds. That's nearly 2,400 divorces per day, 16,800 divorces per week and 876,000 divorces a year. Most people already know that around 50 percent of marriages in the United States end in divorce. The number is similarly high in many other developed nations.**

When you break that down by the number of marriages:

- **41 percent of first marriages end in divorce.**
- **60 percent of second marriages end in divorce.**
- **73 percent of third marriages end in divorce.”⁷**

We should not allow the world to define what marriage is to us and how to treat the opposite sex. Remember, it is written in Romans 12:2,

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

As for single men, we are to treat younger women as our sisters (1 Timothy 5:1-2, **“Do not sharply reprimand an older man, but appeal to him as [you would to] a father, to younger men as brothers, to older women as mothers, to younger women as sisters, in all purity [being careful to maintain appropriate relationships].” AMP**) and it is vice versa. It is very important that single men should begin to learn how to treat women with respect by serving them. Stop all this hunting for girls

to have sex with. See them as God's daughters. See them as human beings. See them as your sisters not as objects for sexual gratification which is an abuse to womanhood. A Professor of Counseling and Psychology, Jeff Logue, Ph.D., said that pornography is a multi-billion-dollar industry. It has been suggested that because so many people are using porn today, the porn industry is making more money than all professional sports combined. Here are some statistics on adult interaction with pornography:

- Men admitting to accessing porn at work: **20%**
- US adults who regularly visit internet pornography websites: **40 million**
- Christians who said pornography is a major problem in the home: **47%**
- Adults admitting to internet sexual addiction: **10%**

Women are not left out in this abuse because the statistics show that:

- Women favour chat rooms **2x** more than men.
- **1 in 3 visitors** of all adult websites is a woman.⁸

The Caledonian Record Newspaper under the heading, 'Editorial: Inequality for Some Hurts All' reported that American women serving in Iraq or Afghanistan are more likely to be raped by a comrade than killed by an enemy (Pentagon). Women around the world aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, war and malaria (UN). Also, one in three women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime (WHO).⁹ This is not how to be a man, this is wickedness. This is foolishness. Let's learn to serve them with all purity.

You cannot serve your wife if you have not learnt how to serve other women with sincerity of heart; start with your mum, sisters, and other women around you. That's why it is difficult for some married men to serve their wives. It is the comfort that you have that you can use to comfort others.

Single ladies should learn how to submit to men by submitting to their fathers or any godly guardian that they are under. Learn how to respect men around you. Start by learning how to respect men with your brothers or male relatives, and then learn with others. If you don't learn that now, you cannot do it when you are married. It will be a struggle for you because it has not been part of your life. This is why we have so many relationship problems and struggles these days in marriages. As you are desiring for the Ephesians chapter 5 man, you should endeavour to be like the Ephesians chapter 5 and Proverbs chapter 31 woman and not like the Proverbs chapter 21 woman. Remember that women want to be loved and men want to be respected. Also, men want to be loved and women want to be respected. People in general want to be loved and respected.

We should not allow the world to teach us how we need to fight for our rights by being radical feminists or masculinists. Remember that we are called to true masculinity and femininity and not to be radical masculinists and feminists. So many women and men are confused now. Some women act like men and some men act like women. Many are confused about their true identity, while some are just denying who they are. Enough of

all this confusion from the world! The Word of God is complete and enough for us to live by. Let us obey God's Word and allow Him to transform our lives so that we can set a good example to the world rather than copying the world.

CHAPTER TWO



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS ESPECIALLY FOR SINGLES

For all singles who are seeking to mingle. Here are some books that can help you in this journey.

NOTE: -For further understanding of the purpose and roles of women and men, please read “Understanding the Purpose and Power of a Woman and Understanding the Purpose and Power of a Man” by Dr. Myles Moures and “The Dignity of Manhood” by Gbile Akanni. Also, for further understanding on this topic, you can follow this link <https://youtu.be/MD3CsFfLxlo> to listen to Ravi Zacharias’ insight on this topic.

Please as you read these books, allow the Holy Spirit to guard and guide you into God's Truth in this area of relationships. Be a student of the Bible first before listening to men. **“Visit many books, but LIVE in the Bible” ~ Charles Spurgeon.**¹⁰ If you have questions, go back to the Bible (**The life manual or compass**) and also ask spiritually matured elders who can openly share about their lives: their successes and failures for you to learn. Please, be careful of the 'elders' you allow to speak into your life. A marriage decision is for life, not just for the moment.

Above all, let us endeavour to learn how God speaks to us individually. It is very important in this journey of life. This is because the decision you make now in marriage, you will live with it for life. Don't just make marriage decision because an 'elder' said, 'follow your heart'. Remember that Jeremiah 17:9 says, **“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”** Don't forget, you live to face the consequences of your decision alone. Be wise. Remain blessed.

1. **THE BIBLE** (The life manual or compass) Read and study your Bible before you start mingling. Be a student of the Bible. Be a disciple of Jesus.
2. **Sacred Singleness** by Leslie Ludy.
3. **Understanding the Purpose and Power of a Woman.**
4. **Understanding the Purpose and Power of a Man.** (Both books were written by Dr. Myles Munroe)
5. **I kissed Dating Goodbye.**
6. **Boy Meets Girl: Say Hello to Courtship.** (Both books were written by Joshua Harris.)
7. **Passion and Purity: Learning to Bring Your Life under Christ's Control** by Elizabeth Elliot and Joshua Harris.
8. **The Dignity of Virginty (Why to say no, when my hormones say yes)** by Solomon Chukwuemeka Ugbaja.
9. **Every Man's Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation One Victory at a Time** by Fred Stoeker and Steve Arterburn

10. **Every Young Man's Battle: Strategies for Victory in the Real World of Sexual Temptation** by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker
11. **Every Woman's Battle: Discovering God's Plan for Sexual and Emotional Fulfillment** by Shannon Ethridge.
12. **Every Young Woman's Battle: Guarding Your Mind, Heart, and Body in a Sex-Saturated World** by Shannon Ethridge and Stephen Arterburn.
13. **Things I Wish I'd known Before We Got Married.**
14. **The Five Love Languages.** (Both books are written by Dr. Gary Chapman)
15. **Four Types of Love** by C.S. Lewis
16. **I, Isaac, Take Thee, Rebekah: Moving From Romance to Lasting Love** by Ravi Zacharias.
17. **Building A Fulfilling Marital Relationship.**
18. **No More Two: God's Principles for Marriage.**
19. **The Dignity of Manhood.** (Both books are written by Gbile Akanni)
20. **Spirit-Controlled Temperament** by Tim LaHaye
21. **Wild at Heart** by John Eldredge
22. **Captivating** by John Eldredge and Stasi Eldredge
23. **The Power of a Praying Husband.**
24. **The Power of a Praying Wife.** (Both books are written by Stormie Omartian)

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14. All scripture quotations in this book are taken from THE HOLY BIBLE: THE KING JAMES VERSION AND NEW LIVING TRANSLATION unless otherwise indicated from <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/>

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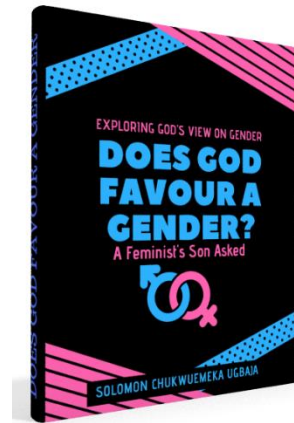
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About the Book

The issue of gender equality and inequality has been a major struggle, especially in our contemporary time. There have been several attempts to solve this problem, but to no avail, especially in a broken and disorderly world. The best answer and solution to this issue is going back to the Creator of gender, so that we can gain insight on what gender is meant to be. God is the creator of gender and He is the maker of humankind. He has a purpose in creating gender. Gender was made to complement, not to divide and subdue one another. God is not an author of confusion. He is the God of order. There is no disorderliness in Him, despite the confusion and disorderliness in the world. God's standards for orderliness still stand. God's word has not changed in our contemporary time. The word of God remains forever, despite the times and seasons. I know times and seasons have changed, but God's Word still stands. This book explores God's Word to see God's viewpoint about gender and their roles in a broken and disorderly world.



About the Author

Solomon Chukwuemeka Ugbaja is a child of God who was saved from being a religious sinner through the grace of God in Christ Jesus into a relationship with the Father as one of God's sons in the family of God. He desires to become more like Jesus Christ as he fulfills God's mandate on earth. He is passionate about seeing teenagers, young adults, and adults become more like Jesus Christ as they seek to fulfill their divine mandate of God's kingdom on earth. He served as the Aid for Life and Family Life Development Coordinator of Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS), Nassarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria. He also served as the State Publicity Secretary of Nigeria Christian Corper's Fellowship (NCCF), Katsina State, Nigeria. He is the author of the book, 'The Dignity of Virginity: Why to say no, when my hormones say yes', and articles like, 'What if Jesus did not rise from the dead?', 'The Best Relationship', 'Makeup: Desire and Seek Unfading Beauty', and 'The Ultimate Love' in Youth and Singles International website (<http://www.youthandsingles.com>). He is currently serving God as a Tentmaker abroad.